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Federal Communications Commission  
44512 12<sup>th</sup> Street SW  
WASHINGTON, DC 20554

Mr. Martin,  
Ms. Abernathy,  
Mr. Copps,  
Mr. Adelstein,

I write to you regarding proceeding 05-235.

In recent years the FCC has enacted or failed to enact rules and regulations to promote and protect amateur radio. I will not take space to relate the importance of amateur radio in society. You have heard this all before. The FCC created PRB-1 to enforce this protection at the local and state level.

I am opposed to the blanket dismissal of the Morse code requirement for obtaining certain levels of amateur radio licensing.

Morse code is an important communication tool in amateur radio. During my preparation to earn my General class license I encountered significant difficulty in receiving Morse code. Much of this difficulty is due to a bilateral hearing loss since birth. However, I persisted in my effort and finally passed. I am proud to have struggled and overcome this difficulty.

Morse code, like the text book materials is not simple. It takes a dedicated effort. My effort took over one year! Persons who do not put in this effort are surely not going to pass. One's education leads to greater access. This is true in all aspects of life. What one puts in is what one gets out. I applied significant time to this challenge and have succeeded in obtaining my extra class license.

The repeal of the Morse code requirement is not in the best interest of the amateur radio community nor the crowded HF bands. Removing this "protection" of the bands is with little thought. Although the book materials

are significant, almost anyone can memorize the answers. The Morse code requirement cannot be memorized. It requires a different skill set that must be learned, practiced and repeated.

Removal of the Morse code requirement would simply be encroaching on the simplicity of the FRS or GMRS radios. There is no education, no professional conduct, and little oversight by users or the FCC. Morse code is a defining element of amateur radio. It provides band control and forces quasi-professional study and operation. Morse code provides a self policing of the bands. If one earns the element after examination it allows further exploration of the world of HF radio.

I would like to encourage the FCC to retain the 5wpm requirements for all license classes above Technician.

Regards,

Christopher J. Whitley  
W1TBG